

Appl. No. 10/726,922
Amdt. Dated
Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2006

Remarks & Arguments

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 1-10 and 24-26 are pending in the application, and that Claims 1-10 and 24-26 are rejected. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0195618 to Saito. Applicants assert an earlier date of invention as established in the attached Declarations made under 35 U.S.C. 131. Accordingly, Saito is not prior art. Applicants therefore request that the anticipation rejection of Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 24-26 be withdrawn and that Claim 1-6, 8-10 and 24-26 be allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0195618 to Saito and U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0062570 to Darwish. Applicants assert an earlier date of invention as established in the attached Declarations made under 35 U.S.C. 131. Accordingly, Saito is not prior art as is not available for use in combination with Darwish to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. In addition, Darwish does not teach the combination of elements of Claim 1 and/or Claim 7.

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Applicants therefore respectfully request that the obviousness rejection of Claim 7 be withdrawn and that Claim 7 be allowed.

Conclusion

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 23-0085. In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

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